



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**CROATIA**

## ABOUT USAID



*Pula is one of the few Croatian cities where youth successfully mobilized other youth to take action and improve their quality of life. Through an USAID funded project, a local youth NGO established a Youth City Council to advocate for their rights and position in the city.*

*Presentations were made to over 4,000 students. In cooperation with 15 educational institutions. Over 100 youth actively organized a youth city council election held in March 2004 during which 1,500 students voted and elected a 25-member Youth Council that has already met, elected a president, and presented a program of action to the local authorities.*

### What is USAID?

USAID is the principal U.S. agency extending assistance to countries implementing economic and democratic reforms to escape poverty and/or recover from disaster. USAID operates in over 100 countries around the world and manages a budget of approximately \$9.5 billion. In the East European region, USAID is fully engaged in seven countries and it has graduated six other countries over the last five years.

### Why a USAID program in Croatia?

USAID has been operating in Croatia since 1992. During this time more than \$320 million in assistance has been delivered to Croatia. USAID/Croatia implements a comprehensive transition program that includes economic and fiscal reform, strengthening democratic institutions, and training activities. Croatia's successful transition is integral to achieving the U.S. core policy goal of stability in Southeast Europe and serves other important American interests such as fighting terrorism and trafficking in persons.

USAID/Croatia's current portfolio is approximately \$70 million. In FY 2005 Croatia's program budget was nearly \$22 million. USAID intends to complete its assistance program in Croatia in 2008.

USAID assistance program is structured around two Strategic Objectives:

- Growth of a dynamic and competitive private sector, and
- More effective citizen participation and improved governance.

USAID/Croatia has a staff of 29 people: six U.S. staff and 23 Croatian staff.